

Pioneer Days to offer music, entertainment for everyone

Stephen Galliot, first vice president and entertainment chairman of the Fifth Annual Carbondale Pioneer Days, which will be August 22-27, has announced eight of the nine major bands which have been booked to appear at the community celebration.

One of the most popular attractions at Pioneer Days will be returning for their fourth consecutive appearance. This is the United States Air Force Band of the East, under the direction of Captain Bruce Gilkes.

The 38 musicians, who dedicate countless hours of hard work to ensure sparkling performances wherever they play, has been a crowd favorite in Carbondale and last year was presented with a special award by the Pioneer Days Committee in appreciation on behalf of the people of Carbondale and the surrounding areas.

"What can we say about the U.S. Air Force Band?" said Galliot. "They speak for themselves through the tremendous show they put on. This year they'll be performing everything from classical music to Sousa marches to Broadway showstoppers to the best in the current Top 40 numbers. Every year after they perform people come to us and tell us how much they enjoy the band and ask us to bring them back next year. And once again, we've brought them back."

Because of the popularity of the Air Force Band, Galliot has scheduled longer concerts this year. There will be two concerts featuring a total of three and a half hours of music. The first performance will be Friday, August 26, from 6 to 8 p.m. This will be a special concert with everyone welcome. All bleacher seats will be reserved for senior citizens and the physically and mentally handicapped. As with the informality of all Pioneer Days entertainment, people are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets, find a spot, and sit back and enjoy the show. The Air Force Band will present a 90-minute encore concert Saturday, August 27, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. during which bleacher seating will be available free on a first come, first served basis.

Starting off Pioneer Days on Monday, August 22, will be country music performed by "Tony Carter and Country Express." This is an area group which drew heavy applause at its initial engagement at Pioneer Days several years ago and since has enjoyed growing popularity at its many engagements throughout northeastern Pennsylvania. They will take to the Pioneer Days Showmobile for a four-hour concert beginning at 8:30 p.m.

The featured band Tuesday, August 23, will be "The Irish Lads." Consisting of Tom Boyle, Neil Casey, Ed Corcoran and Mike Dolan, the quartet has been together more than five years and has played throughout the East.

"We booked this band, new this year, because of their rapport with the audience," said Galliot. "They start playing and hands start clapping and toes start tapping and people begin



DAVE CRAWSHAW, GUITARIST AND VOCALIST, will be one of the acts performing more than 40 hours of free entertainment at the Fifth Annual Carbondale Pioneer Days.

singing along. I think everybody is going to like them and you don't have to be Irish because their music is universal."

Wednesday, August 24, will see two bands taking to the Showmobile. The first will be a new local group called "Scotland Yard" and they will perform at 5:30 p.m. "We're trying to showcase some of our local talent along with the big outside bands this year," said Galliot. "I think Scotland Yard is going to show the calibre of the talent we have right here. It's a young group, but they're good and they're going places."

The featured band Wednesday night will be "The Henry Charles Orchestra." Back for the second year at the request of many who saw them perform last year, this group also offers a universal sound ranging from polkas to big band sounds.

Thursday, August 25, will see "The Lee Vincent Orchestra" on the Showmobile stage. The orchestra is well-known throughout the East for its danceable rhythms for young and old. Their albums include "Tonight My Sweetheart," "Our Song," and "My Guy's Come Back."

"This is a big band dance orchestra," said Galliot. "And people are welcome to kick it up and dance on the street in the area in front of the Showmobile. This is the band where you come downtown not just to hear but to dance and have a good time."

Friday, August 26, is a big night at Pioneer Days. In addition to the U.S. Air Force Band of the East, taking the Showmobile will be the fabulous "Poets."

Said Galliot, "The 'Poets' are certainly the show band

in the East. They do it all. They have costume changes and they provide something for everyone. This is one of our big groups and I don't know a soul who has seen it that hasn't enjoyed it."

"We'll be announcing the featured band for Saturday night a little later on," said Galliot. "We're still waiting for some publicity information, but I can say that this is a group that has played national television and every major club there is. It is a very, very big act."

But that will not be the only attraction Saturday, August 27.

"We've got something else quite special this year," said Galliot. "He's a guitarist and vocalist and he's going places in the entertainment world. He's from Buffalo, New York, but now makes his home in Carbondale and has played to standing room crowds throughout the region. His name is Dave Crawshaw and he'll be performing between the U.S. Air Force Band and our featured band that night. It's a tough spot to fill, but Dave is good enough to fill it and that's why we've booked him for that spot."

Overall, there will be more than 40 hours of free entertainment at the Fifth Annual Carbondale Pioneer Days. "We'll be announcing more later," said Galliot.

"but in addition to these bands, we've also got the great Friendly City Chorus, the always in demand Carbondale Kitchen Band,

Damian the Magician, Cosmic Louie & Faye, God's Puppets, Lynette Lepre, the Gina Tomassoni School of Dance, The Spark, Pearl's Twirlers, the Carbondale Dances, and much, more."

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